

**County of Los Angeles - Department of Mental Health**

**Quality Improvement Work Plan Implementation Status Report**

**Dated 11/5/12**

**Prepared by: Program Support Bureau, Quality Improvement Division**

**NAME OF REPORT:**

CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS (SUBSTANCE USE) (COD)

**QI IMPLEMENTATION STATUS REPORT**

The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission Report on Co-Occurring Disorders (2007) recommended that all programs funded by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) be required to integrate mental health and substance abuse services for all clients who need them. Efforts by LAC-DMH to achieve COD integration goals have included the following initiatives: establishing a Departmental COD Coordinator and a COD therapist to work with each Service Area; standards were established to initiate appropriate COD assessment and screening; extensive training courses have been provided on integrating COD treatment; proficiency in treating COD has been established as a core competency for all clinical staff; COD forms and clinical documentation training sessions have been held for new and existing employees; the Office of the Medical Director has established and posted on the DMH website for all providers Parameters for the use of Psychoactive Medications in individuals with Co-occurring Substance Abuse; collaboration with QA and QI involving COD clinical documentation; and STATS monitoring COD as a clinical indicator.

The following is a summary of LAC-DMH initiatives for COD integration into the mental health service delivery system since the previous QI Status Update Report on Co-Occurring Disorders completed in 11/2011.

**Summary of Findings**

- COD Screening and Assessment training continues to be a component of DMH System wide trainings and is being incorporated into the Clinical Documentation Training provided by LAC-DMH during mandatory New Employee Orientation.
- LACDMH Executive Management Team (EMT) continues consistent monitoring of STATS reports on COD concordance for all directly operated providers.
- The MHP continues to contract with UCLA-Integrated Substance Abuse Program (ISAP) to provide training and consultation on integrating substance abuse treatment approaches.

- Skills in substance abuse screening, assessment and treatment engagement are defined as core functions in all clinical positions. Social Workers, Case Managers, Registered Nurses and all direct clinical staff have COD skills incorporated into their job descriptions.
- UCLA/ISAP developed a new training e-course for clinicians, "The Foundations of Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)." This course is offered electronically for clinicians throughout the MHP system.
- The COD Coordinator and DMH clinical staff completed revision of Screening and Assessment Tools for Children and Adolescents incorporating assessment of COD. These tools are now being implemented throughout the MHP.
- UCLA/ISAP developed and provided specific trainings, "The Power of 12-Step & Social Model Recovery for Wellness Center Staff," (12 trainings) sponsored by the LAC-DMH Adult Systems of Care.
- UCLA/ISAP developed and provided training on screening, brief intervention, and referral to substance abuse treatment (SBIRT) specifically for Older Adults (4 trainings) and specifically for Adolescents (6 trainings), consistent with the Mental Health Integration Program (MHIP) training initiatives.
- Inclusion of COD awareness and skills development as part of ongoing DMH Peer Advocate Wellness Outreach Worker (WOW) trainings.
- UCLA/ISAP provided training to several housing agencies with DMH contracts who provide shelter for SMI consumers, "Co-Occurring Disorders & Drug Addiction Basics: Why Can't they Just Quit?"
- UCLA/ISAP provided motivational interviewing training including 4 geographically disperse full-day trainings focusing on the basic motivational interviewing techniques for interviewing consumers with COD as well as a two-day Motivational Interviewing Academy providing an intensive experience for supervisors who will be ensuring that all team members are proficient in motivational interviewing.
- UCLA/ISAP provided two Spanish Language Courses for monolingual Wellness Outreach Workers (WOW) and Service Extenders regarding the basics of drug addiction and how it interrelates with mental health.

**Action Requested/Needed**

- 1) Continued cumulative reports by STATS to monitor the COD Performance Indicator for increased recording of dual diagnosis and concordance with primary diagnosis.

- 2) Renew contract and work with UCLA/ISAP for appropriate educational training and consultation.
- 3) Quality Assurance Division to continue to provide system-wide training for new and existing clinicians on proper clinical documentation including COD integration into the CCCP.
- 4) Re-definition of job functions in all clinical staff job descriptions to include core competencies in COD treatment issues.
- 5) Continue to increase the knowledge and awareness of all clinicians in the system regarding COD screening and assessment and how to effectively use peer advocates when appropriate.
- 6) Implement newly developed assessment, screening and treatment documentation tools for children and adolescents with COD issues.

#### **Recommended Policy Change**

- 1) Implement new procedures and training in documentation to ensure that substance related treatment is provided secondarily to and as a support of the necessary mental health treatment.
- 2) Continue to work on the development of integrated trainings that will support and compliment integrated health care services that will be effective in an integrated health care setting and will meet the needs of the emerging health care reform.